

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

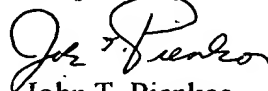
The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of the present Application. In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to either invention Group I (claims 1-17) or invention Group II (claims 18-20). In response, the Applicant hereby elects Group I without traverse, and without prejudice to the filing of any divisional application(s) including those claims. As shown in the above listing of claims, claims 18-20 have been cancelled, in accordance with the Applicant's election,

In view of the Applicant's cancellation of claims 18-20, the Applicant has added new claims 21-23 as shown above. Due to their subject matter, the Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 21-23 do not add new matter and should properly be included in Group I. Also, the Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the cancellation of claims 18-20, no additional fee is required in relation to the adding of new claims 21-23.

The Applicant also is submitting herewith an additional Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement including additional art of which the Applicant recently became aware. The Applicant believes that no fee is due in relation to the submission of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement insofar as it is being submitted before the issuance of any Patent Office action concerning the substance of the pending claims. However, if the Examiner believes that a fee is due in connection with the submission of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the Applicant at the Applicant's telephone number listed below so that the Applicant may submit such appropriate fee prior to consideration of the Applicant's claims.

In view of the above Remarks and Amendments, the Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of the present Application. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of the present Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to telephone the Applicant at the telephone number listed below. If the Applicant is not available when the Examiner calls, the Applicant invites the Examiner to leave a message (either by voicemail or with such other person who may answer the Examiner's call), and the Applicant will then respond to the Examiner's message in due course.

Respectfully,


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Applicant

Dated: 10/27/03
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